

Alexander McKenzie

Alexander McKenzie was a powerful political leader in early northern Dakota Territory. He was largely responsible for the relocation of the Dakota Territorial Capitol to Bismarck. He was also the first man from North Dakota to receive a presidential pardon. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the life of Alexander McKenzie.

Archival Collections

10042 Alexander McKenzie Papers

Register of visitors to the real estate office of McKenzie and Holmes (Bismarck, ND), letter book containing business correspondence dealing with the Bismarck Water Works, the sale of Northern Pacific Railroad property, and state and local politics, a naturalization certificate, venire for Petit Jury, and documents of appointment as Deputy Sheriff of Burleigh County.

10062 Isaac Post Baker Papers

Personal papers of Isaac Baker, ca. 1895-1901; and the records of many businesses owned or controlled by Baker. Principal correspondents include Thomas C. Power, John Charles, Porter J. McCumber, H.C. Hansbrough, Asle J. Gronna, and Alexander McKenzie. Business man, banker, mayor of Bismarck, North Dakota, 1890-1891.

10323 Joseph W. Jackson Collection

Manuscript copy of Bismarck Boomer: The Amazing Career of Alexander McKenzie, and correspondence concerning research on his book about McKenzie.

10553 Frank E. Vyzralek Collection

Box 37, Folder 17

The collection includes the research files, personal papers, photographs and audiovisual materials of lifelong researcher and former North Dakota State Archivist Frank Edward Vyzralek. The research files include original work and information compiled about agriculture, arts and entertainment, business and industry, city and town life, education, ethnicity, Indians of North America, history, military, people, places, politics and government, religion and transportation. These broad areas of research are organized further by topic. Notable areas of research include North Dakota photographers, baseball, beer and bottling, mills and elevators, crime, the (Continued on next page)

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- Burleigh County sheriff
- Deputy U.S. Marshall
- Republican National Committeeman
- Dakota Territorial Capitol
- North Dakota State Capitol
- Politics
- Political Leader

People

- Alexander McKenzie, 1851-1922
- President William McKinley, 1843-1901

Locations

- North Dakota
- Dakota Territory
- Bismarck
- Yankton

Journal Articles

Sectionalism in North Dakota Politics: The Progressive Republican Revolt of 1900
D. Jerome Tweton – *North Dakota History*
Vol. 25 Issue 1

The Boodlers

William E. Sherman – *North Dakota History*
Vol. 34 Issue 3

Henry C. Hansbrough and the Fight Against the Tariff Act in 1894

Leonard Schlup – *North Dakota History* Vol. 45 Issue 1

North Dakota Teachers Insurance and Retirement Fund, North Dakota "Centennial Moments," biographies, place names, Bismarck (N.D.), railroads and steamboats.

10691 Roy Johnson and Louis Pfaller Collection

Box 13

Newspaper clippings, articles, photographs, maps, pamphlets, and correspondence documenting the research of two historians, Johnson and Pfaller, on Major James McLaughlin, forts, battles, railroads, steamboats, exploration, pioneers, Native Americans, weather, murders, schools, missionaries, etc.

11088 Janet Beltran Research Collection

Papers consist of Beltran's research files on Alexander McKenzie, Reverend J. B. M. Genin, and the histories of Bismarck, ND and of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Files include copies of historical documents and publications, as well as Beltran's notes, bibliographical material, and information on sources.

11100 Alexander McKenzie Family Papers

Papers consist of correspondence to Elva A. McKenzie (1856-1922) from Alexander McKenzie (1851-1922), miscellaneous correspondence to Alexander, Elva, Jeannette (1888-1979), Alexander Jr. and Thomas McKenzie, personal files, financial material, legal documents, newspaper clippings, photographs and several artifacts.

20190 George P. Flannery Papers

Papers consist of a biographical sketch of Flannery and an essay concerning Alexander McKenzie's role in the removal of the territorial capitol from Yankton (D.T.) to Bismarck (D.T.).

20420 Lydia B. Townsend Papers

Copy of a letter from Townsend to Joseph Jackson, Madison, Wisconsin, providing biographical information concerning Alexander McKenzie and Donald Stevenson.

40647 Burleigh County. State's Attorney, Civil & Criminal Case Records

Box 1, Folders 68, 111, 125

500412 CRIMINAL CASE FILES contains judgment of conviction, lists of defendant, charges, arraignment information, police reports, investigative records, and responses to parole officer. Restricted.

40761 Burleigh County. Clerk of Court, Civil Case Files

Box 4, Folder 26; Box 7, Folders 35, 51, 57; Box 9, Folder 3; Box 22, Folder 2; Box 23, Folder 34

Includes legal documents filed with the court, testimony, depositions, final decrees and occasionally evidence such as photographs, letters, and artifacts.

41670 Plat of McKenzie's & Coffin's Addition to the City of Bismarck

Robt. J. Johnson & Geo. E. Reed, Surveyors, Alexander McKenzie & Elijah Coffin, Proprietors. Checked & corrected by T. R. Atkinson, Co, Surveyor

80053 Alexander McKenzie Deed

Deed.

Books

The Economic and Political Background of the Nonpartisan League

1941 - Robert H. Bahmer

Call Number: 329 B147

Alexander McKenzie, Boss of North Dakota 1883-1906

1949 – Kenneth J. Carey

Call Number: 978.4 C188a

The Complete History of Bismarck, North Dakota: Frontier to Metropolis

2021 – Randy Hoffman

Call Number: 791.84 H781 1938

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Call Number: 13087

The Spoilers

1905—Rex E. Beach; with four illustrations by Clarence F. Underwood

Call Number: 813 B353 1905

McKenzie, Alexander, 1851-1922

General Information File Biography

Online Resources

[Alex M'Kenzie, N. D. Pioneer Passes Away at St. Paul](#)

Dickey County Leader article from June 29, 1922

[SHSND Photobook](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

[Digital Horizons](#)

Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

[WorldCat](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

External Resources

[Alexander McKenzie: The Boss of North Dakota](#)

Video uploaded to the Prairie Public YouTube channel on January 14, 2015

[Alexander McKenzie, Boss of North Dakota 1883-1906](#)

Kenneth J. Carey—University of North Dakota student thesis from June 1949

State Archives

For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email archives@nd.gov or call (701) 328-2668.



North Dakota State Archives Subject Guides made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).